

THE

RANGE

RIDER



THE

GRAZING

SERVICE

Here
C H R I S T M A S is G R E E T I N G S !
 a
 Happy
 Greeting
 for
 Christmas Day
 and a Wish,
 as the Old Year Ends,
 for the Very Brightest
 of all New Years
 to All of Our Very Good Friends!

THE NATION'S CHRISTMAS TREE

Christmas trees are symbols of peace and good will and, as such, they should have particularly significant meaning this coming Yuletide in the hearts of men, women, and children throughout the troubled world.

In Washington, on Christmas eve, the Nation's official Christmas tree, a living spruce in Lafayette Square called the National Community Christmas Tree, is customarily lighted in its Christmas glory by the President of the United States who then extends to all his message of peace and good will.

This happy custom began in 1923 and, since 1929, the ceremony has been broadcast to every part of the United States and has been the signal for thousands of other community Christmas trees the country over to blaze forth with their message of Christmas cheer.

The celebration is sponsored by the Community Center Department of the District of Columbia Public Schools, the American Forestry Association, and the Office of National Capital Parks of the Department of the Interior. Supporting these organizations is a National committee composed of individuals representing various departments of the Federal Government, the District of Columbia, various social and church groups, newspapers and radio companies, and many other diverse organizations.

The ceremony is opened with a brief invocation by a member of the local clergy, following which The President and the First Lady are greeted by a Boy Scout and a Girl Scout. Then comes the great moment and The President presses the button which lights the deep green beauty of the tree with myriad jeweled lights. When The President has extended his Christmas greeting to the Nation, the voices of the carolers are heard singing "Silent Night" and "Hark the Herald Angels Sing." It is the custom that the finale be "Cantique de Noel", a cornet solo played by a member of the Marine Band in the frosty air of Christmas eve which thrills all who hear it. A benediction is reverently received and the lighting of the National Community Christmas Tree is over.

(Condensed from an article by Elizabeth Peeples
in "American Forests.")

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SAFETY SUGGESTIONS

The award for the best safety suggestion offered by Director Rutledge will be announced in the next issue of the Range Rider. The final date on getting these suggestions into the Washington office has been extended for one week, so let us have your suggestions -- and make them good ones!

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THE WO LOSES ONE OF ITS FAVORITES ON DECEMBER 1

Mrs. Frances E. Dunn, former editor of The Range Rider and to whom we are indebted for its prompt preparation and lively news in the past, has accepted an appointment with the General Land Office. We are mighty glad about the promotion but extremely regret having her leave the Grazing Service. The Washington office staff turned out en masse at a surprise luncheon on November 30, honoring Frances, with a photographer on hand, and everything!

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PERSONNEL GUIDANCE

Outstanding work in personal guidance and counseling of Civilian Conservation Corps enrollees is being done by Foreman Roy E. Hartwell, G-94, Midway, Idaho.

Mr. Hartwell is particularly interested in those boys who "go over the hill", those given dishonorable discharges, and those who remain in camp but are never able to adjust themselves to camp life. His efforts are directed toward holding the boy in camp and, through the application of practical psychology, assist him in becoming a happy, contented, and normal individual. With the development of a proper attitude, the boy finds in camp life and work the opportunity to develop and improve his chances for future employment.

Mr. Hartwell is ever ready and willing to discuss with his boys any individual problems and during his four years of CCC service he has successfully counseled several score of boys in his camp.

Thank you, Mr. Hartwell! Carry on!

(Suggested by Paul R. Revis,
Safety-instructor.)

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THE AMERICAN CATTLE PRODUCER

The December issue of the "American Cattle Producer" carries several interesting articles, among them an account of the Country's big game survey conducted by the Biological Survey, which indicates there are nearly 6,000,000 big game animals in the United States. Of this number more than 5,323,000 are deer. It is interesting to note that Delaware is the only State in which no big game animals are found.

The use of electric fence on the range is discussed by Fred N. Ares, Superintendent, Jornada Experimental Range. We are told that tests on the Jornada Experimental Range have indicated that electric fence can be very effectively used under certain range conditions but that some improvements will have to be made in electric equipment if it is to be universally successful under all conditions. Mr. Ares states that the cost of electric fence varies from \$20 to \$25 a mile.

THE CHIMNEY CREEK STOCK TRAIL

The Chimney Creek Stock Trail is being pushed to completion as rapidly as possibly by camp G-12, Inyokern, California.

When completed the trail, about two miles in length up a very rough and rocky canyon, will allow cattle to go up and down the mountain without too much difficulty and it will be possible to ride a saddle horse over it. The trail will make available several areas which provide fine feed for cattle at or near the top of the mountain which have been inaccessible due to the roughness of the terrain. Undoubtedly much work of this type will be done in the future.

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WEDDING BELLS

It's Mrs. Sam Goodman now! Yes, our little steno, Sarah Kantor, recently took THE STEP. We are glad to have her back in the office after several weeks of annual leave.

Then, too.....The engagement of Robert B. Price and Miss Louise Howser was announced at the Baptist Church, Falls Church, Virginia, recently. Bob is a young attorney who looks after contracts for the Grazing Service. We thought he'd probably "lay the law" down to the future Mrs. Price until we learned she is a rising young attorney, too!

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WE GET AN ORCHID!

The following letter was recently received from Mr. Frank R. Bryant, a member of the Advisory Board of New Mexico District No. 5:

"I want to thank you very much for the 'Range Rider' which I have been receiving. In addition to the pleasure I get out of it, I regard it as valuable in keeping us all in touch with the department in a friendly way -- who is who, what is going on, and your problems and how you are working them out. Thanks for keeping me on the mailing list."

Thank you, Mr. Bryant!

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Region 7's "Thought for Every Day", in the October 29 issue of their news sheet, deserves repeating:

MUD THROWN IS GROUND LOST!

FIELD INSPECTION

Assistant Director Terrett who recently returned from an extended inspection trip throughout all regions says that while there is still much work to be done, he feels that most regions are functioning better than at the time of his last field trip.

While in Montana, Mr. Terrett met with the Montana Grass Conservation Commission at Miles City, and discussed with members of that organization some phases of the work of the Grazing Service.

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TRAINING

Gilbert E. Boldman (project assistant, G-77, Rawlins, Wyoming) is one young man in the Civilian Conservation Corps who is taking advantage of the opportunities offered to get first hand training and experience in the field of radio and at the same time render valuable service to the Grazing Service.

Through on-the-job instruction from Superintendent Johnson and Mechanic McCullough of G-77, and careful study of the job to be done, Mr. Boldman has been able to contribute some very important repair work in the maintenance of radio equipment in the Wyoming region.

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NEW BADGES

It is said some Grazing officials are having a hard time finding their tiny new badges which were distributed last week. The larger badges will continue to be worn by Range Riders.

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When I asked my friend for a Christmas story for the Range Rider, this is what he suggested:

Several drug-store cowboys watched as a grinning dorky somewhat unsteadily stepped from a street car with a paper-wrapped package under his arm that left not its liquid contents in doubt. As the car gave a lurch the package slipped from the surprised fellow's hands and crashed to the pavement where its aromatic contents soon disappeared. Smiles were replaced by a look of sadness on the old fellow's face as he moaned: "Lawdy, Christmas jist come and gone!"

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BOWLING

The Grazing-Secretary Bowling Team is now in second place after having scored over the Miscellaneous Team in the game December 6.

CRICKET CONTROL

Superintendent Floyd Condrey, G-123, McDermitt, Nevada received an expression of appreciation for the cooperation given the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, Department of Agriculture, in 1939, in Mormon cricket control. Approximately 424 foreman hours and 13,698 enrollee hours were utilized in the placing and maintaining of metal barriers. Foremen Jenkins, Cole, Hawkins and Irwin assisted in this work.

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PREDATORY ANIMAL CONTROL

At a recent meeting of the advisory board of Colorado Grazing District No. 6, members of that board were given a report by officials of the Biological Survey relative to predatory animal control activities in that district.

It was reported that 98 coyotes have been captured in the district and that the coyote situation on the western slope of Colorado appears very serious at the present time due to the low market price for coyote pelts and the subsequent decrease in private trapping.

The advisory board recommended to the Colorado State Game and Fish Department that, as a method of controlling predatory animal depredations of game, birds, and animals, a minimum of fifty cents from the sale of each and every hunting license sold in the State of Colorado be set aside specifically for the control of predatory animals and that the control of such predators be delegated to the Bureau of Biological Survey.

The board also recommended that accounting be made of the scalps and furs of predatory animals taken by Grazing Service hunters working under fifty percent funds in cooperation with the Biological Survey in District No. 6, and that they be submitted to the Biological Survey and money received therefor be added to the fifty percent fund for further predatory animal control work.

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Every Christmas is a prologue,
To another story told.
It's the very happy ending
Of twelve chapters bound in gold.

And the New Year is a preface
To a tale as yet unread.
So may every page unfolding
Show you happiness ahead.

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CHRISTMAS ENCIRCLES THE WORLD

Gilbert B. Layton (Washington office)

Somewhere in the mid-Pacific at that moment of midnight when there is no day; at that breathless fragment of time that marks the dividing point between today and tomorrow, another Christmas will be born.

"Westward ho", will be its cry and westward it will sweep at a thousand miles an hour. Over tropical islands and leagues of sea!

Over Asia! No place for Christmas in this war-torn land.

Over Europe! The stronghold of Christians, the birthplace of Christmas. Christmas will receive a welcome here. Perhaps the guns will be stilled for a day. Maybe the bombers will drop holly wreaths. Perhaps the blackouts will not be so black. Maybe the soldiers in the forts, in the trenches, in the barracks, will receive packages from home. Yes, Christmas will receive a welcome in Europe, but the kind of welcome that will make it want to hurry on.

And on it will come, across the Atlantic to America. The land that adopted Christmas as its own; the land of peace and plenty. Here Christmas will receive a royal welcome as it strides across the continent. In the East, lighted cities; in the Middle West, lighted villages and farms; parties, dances, family groups, happiness!

Christmas will swirl on merrily to the Far West, and there it will see -- but wait, what is that? Is this country, too, divided against itself? What is the meaning of those long barracks, of that raw overturned earth, of those men in uniform, of that piece of machinery looking strangely like a tank?

Wait! Don't hurry away, Christmas. Look again at that long building. It is a CCC camp. That torn earth is not an entrenchment or a shell hole. It is a reservoir being built to hold the water from melting Christmas snows. That metal monster is not a tank used for destruction. It is a tractor used for construction.

Look again at those hurrying men in uniform. They are not soldiers. They are CCC enrollees. Those are not strange weapons they are carrying. Those are tools to be used in the destruction of Christmas dinner - knives, forks, spoons, plates - all to be used to tear apart turkey, roast beef, lamb chops, ladle up mashed potatoes, balance juicy peas. That struggling you see is merely good-natured crowding to see who can be first in the mess line. That long knife is not a bayonet, but a bread knife. Those are not bombs and hand grenades, but Christmas packages. This is not camouflage, but a Christmas tree.

You won't need to hurry away from here, Christmas. In most places you will not be welcomed at all. In some places your coming will be noted by a twenty-four hour truce, but in the United States, and in these CCC camps your advent will be celebrated for three days.

Merry Christmas, Christmas, from America and from America's builders, the Civilian Conservation Corps!